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New York State
Department of
Transportation
**ENGINEERING
INSTRUCTION**

EI
00-016

Title: **FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK AREA SIGNING**

Distribution:

- | | |
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Approved:

6/6/00
Date

P. T. Wells, Chief Engineer

SUPERSEDED ISSUANCES: This Engineering Instruction does not supersede any other issuances but it does supplement EI 91-02, "Work Zone Construction Sign".

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Engineering Instruction is effective immediately for all program areas involved in maintaining and protecting traffic through Department construction contracts, maintenance operations, permit work and other operations on state highways. The Design Quality Assurance Bureau will add the attached shelf note to all contracts beginning with those submitted for the letting of 11/02/00. The signing may be implemented by order on contract for on-going projects, and by amendment for projects let before 11/02/00. Signs should be installed on maintenance projects as soon as they can be obtained.

PURPOSE: This EI is to direct the installation of signing to advise motorists that fines for speeding convictions within a highway construction or maintenance work area are twice those for speeding outside a work area. The signing is intended to emphasize to motorists the need to reduce speed and advise of the consequences of a conviction for speeding within a work area.

TRANSMITTED MATERIALS: Attached is a shelf note revising Section 619-3.02 of the Standard Specifications to require signing in all highway work areas where the work encroaches on an original travel lane. It should also be used for any work area where workers are near the travel lane and exposed to high speed traffic. The shelf note includes description of the stand alone "FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK ZONES" sign and, as an alternative, the "FINES DOUBLED" panel which can supplement reduced work area speed limit signs. Also attached is a drawing of the "FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK ZONES" sign. The shelf note will be incorporated into the next version of the Standard Specifications.

BACKGROUND: Section 1180 (h) (3) of the Vehicle and Traffic Law provides that the minimum fine levied on a person convicted of exceeding a work area speed limit be twice that imposed upon conviction for the same infraction outside a work area. A December 14, 1998 memo from the Traffic Engineering & Highway Safety Division transmitted details of the stand alone "FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK ZONES" sign and general use guidelines but did not result in significant use of the sign. EI 91-02 requires the "WORK ZONE" panel to be mounted above work area speed limit signs where the speed limit is reduced from the original speed limit. Authorization 00-1 of Appendix A-19 of title 17 of the Official Compilation of

Codes, Rules and regulations of the State of New York (otherwise known as NYS Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) will authorize the "FINES DOUBLE" panel (as an alternative to the more generic "FINES HIGHER") for use as a supplement to R2-1 maximum speed limit signs and R2-10 speed zone ahead signs employed for highway work zone traffic control. The panel will be designated as R2-13.

IMPLEMENTATION: Signing advising motorists of the doubled fines shall be installed on the mainline in advance of any highway work area where the work encroaches on a travel lane. It should also be used where work encroaches on the shoulder for more than one day or where workers on the shoulder are exposed to high speed traffic. The "FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK ZONES" sign shall be the primary device since it can be installed independently of a speed limit sign. The sign should be placed where it won't interfere with, or detract from, any traffic control device. It shouldn't be placed between a warning sign and the condition to which it relates, or within a warning sign countdown series. To avoid the aforementioned conditions, install the sign 300 m (1000 feet) upstream of the first warning sign on highways with 85th percentile speeds equal to or greater than 70 kph (45 mph) and 100-150 m (300-500 feet) upstream for speeds under 70 kph (45 mph). The sign should be a minimum of 600 mm (24 inches) by 900 mm (36 inches) with "STATE LAW" in 75 mm (3 inch) Series D white lettering on black background and "FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK ZONES" in 75 mm (3 inch) Series C black lettering on a white background. Proportionately larger sizes should be used where greater emphasis or legibility is required. A double sized sign should be used in most freeway applications and is required in the shelf note. Sign and letter sizes should be indicated in the plans.

As an alternative, the R2-13 "FINES DOUBLE" panel may be used with any R2 speed limit or speed zone ahead sign used to post a work area speed limit which is lower than the normal speed limit for that portion of highway. The sign assembly shall include the R2 speed limit/speed zone ahead sign with a "WORK ZONE" panel on top and the FINES DOUBLE" panel mounted directly beneath the speed limit or speed zone ahead sign. Both the "WORK ZONE" and the "FINES DOUBLE" panels shall be completely covered or otherwise removed from view when the R2 speed limit sign is covered or removed. When using the panel, consider the need for additional posts for the assembly.

This information may also be communicated via a variable message sign where more practical or cost effective. Reduce the legend to "SPEEDING FINES DOUBLED IN WORK ZONES" so it can be presented in two displays in a VMS unit having three lines with eight characters per line. Use of variable message signs for this purpose should be limited to a short period, generally two to four weeks, at the start of a project.

Designers should show the signing on the plans and include its cost in the lump sum price for 619.02 for projects submitted for the letting of 11/02/00. It shall also be included in highway work permits approved after July 1, 2000.

CONTACT

Direct any questions to the Regional Traffic Group or Chuck Riedel of the Traffic Engineering & Highway Safety Division at (518) 457-3537.

CONSTRUCTION SIGNS

Make the following changes to Addendum 2 of the Standard Specifications of January 2, 1995:

Page VI-20, line 39 thru line 48, **delete** in its entirety and **substitute** the following:

"Whenever a reduced regulatory speed limit for a highway work area has been legally established by any means, the R-2 speed limit signs and, if used, the R2-10 speed zone ahead signs for the reduced speed shall be supplemented by a work zone warning panel as described below.

The work zone warning panels shall be the same width as the speed limit sign they are supplementing. They shall be 150 mm high with 75 mm Series B lettering when used with size B speed limit signs; 200 mm high with 100 mm Series B lettering when used with size C speed limit signs; 300 mm high with 150 mm Series B lettering when used with size D speed limit signs and 400 mm high with 200 mm Series B lettering when used with size E speed limit signs. The panel shall read "WORK ZONE" with black legend and fluorescent orange background (Materials Designation 730-05.04, Class D). These panels shall be placed on the same posts and immediately above the speed limit signs.

Signing advising motorists of increased fines for speeding within a highway work area shall be installed on the mainline in advance of any highway construction or maintenance work area where the work encroaches on a travel lane. It shall also be installed where work encroaches on the shoulder for more than one day unless otherwise indicated by the Engineer. The signing shall conform to one of the following methods as shown on the plans or directed by the Engineer:

The "FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK ZONES" sign shall be installed upstream of the first advance warning sign. It shall not be placed between a warning sign and the condition to which it relates, or within a warning sign countdown series. To avoid the aforementioned conditions, install the sign approximately 300 m (1000 feet) upstream of the first warning sign on highways with 85th percentile speeds equal to or greater than 70 kph (45 mph) and 100-150 m (300-500 feet) upstream for speeds under 70 kph (45 mph). The sign shall have black legend and border on a white background (Materials Designation 730-05.01, Class A) except for the top of the sign which has black background and white "STATE LAW" legend. If not otherwise detailed in the plans, the sign shall be a minimum of 600 mm (twenty four inches) wide by 900 mm (thirty six inches) high with "STATE LAW" in 75 mm (three inch) Series D white lettering on a black background and "FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK ZONES" in 75 mm (three inch) Series C black lettering.

Unless otherwise indicated in the plans, a double sized sign shall be used in freeway and multilane applications where the 85th percentile speed equals or exceeds 55 mph.

If indicated on the plans or approved by the Engineer as an alternative to the "FINES DOUBLED FOR SPEEDING IN WORK ZONES" sign, a reduced work area speed limit sign may be supplemented by an R2-13 "FINES DOUBLE" panel in addition to the "WORK ZONE" panel. The R2-13 "FINES DOUBLE" panels shall be the same width as the speed limit sign they are supplementing. They shall be 300 mm high with 75 mm Series D lettering when used with size B speed limit signs; 450 mm high with 100 mm Series D lettering when used with size C speed limit signs; 600 mm high with 150 mm Series D lettering when used with size D speed limit signs and 900 mm high with 200 mm Series D lettering when used with size E speed limit signs. The panel shall read "FINES DOUBLE" with black legend and borders and white background (Materials Designation 730-05.02, Class B). These panels shall be placed on the same posts and immediately below the speed limit signs. If the R2-13 "FINES DOUBLE" panel is added to a previously installed speed limit assembly, it may be necessary to install additional sign posts based on an assessment of the adequacy of the existing posts to support the additional panel. It may also be necessary to adjust sign mounting heights to meet the 1500 mm minimum mounting height requirement in Section 619-3.02 B.

Both the work zone warning and the fines double panels shall be completely covered or otherwise removed from view when the R-2 speed limit sign is covered or removed."

STATE LAW

**FINES
DOUBLED FOR
SPEEDING
IN
WORK ZONES**